Paper used for passports

2919. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quality of paper used for the Indian passports is not that of international standard;

(b) whether it is also a fact that visa stickers pasted on the passport by Embassies/High Commission leave a visible mark on the back side of the stickers due to adhesive ink used by Embassy/High Commission;

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard so that passengers are not harassed by emigration authorities; and

(d) whether Government would also issue instructions/directions to the emigration authorities on this, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir. The quality of paper used for Indian passports is of international standard. The quality, security and data features of Indian passports conform to the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) standards.

(b) No, Sir. No such complaint has been received so far.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Persons involved in Mumbai blasts

2920. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan President has offered to cooperate with India in tracking persons involved in Mumbai blasts in local trains on 11th July, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Governemnt have provided the details to Pakistan about all suspects involved in blasts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Yes. After the Mumbai train blasts on 11 July 2006, Pakistan President Musharraf in a speech on 20 July 2006

said that "Pakistan will fully help India to identify terrorists or their organization if we are provided with specific information and evidence".

(c) to (e) No. In response to President Musharraf's offer, the Spokesperson fo the Ministry of External Affairs said on 21 July 2006 that it "gives us no cause for satisfaction inview of Pakistan's refusal to cooperate in the past, most recently at the Home Secretary level talks in May this year, when substantial evidence was provided to Pakistan of the presence on its territory of terrorist groups and fugitives. Neverthless, in view of President Musharraf's assurance, we will continue to provide to Pakistani authorities all available evidence and await practical action on their part." However, Government is disappointed at Pakistan's continuing denial of the presence of and failure to take action against jihadi groups threatening to operate against India from Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Movement of terrorists in Nepal

2921. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact the Nepal Government are not taking effective steps to check movement of terrorists even after Mumbai Local Train blasts and that some media persons entered into India with toy guns unchecked by Nepali security forces;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken up the issue with Government of Nepal about the terrorists activities and their movements aimed at creating disturbances in India; and

(c) if so, the response of Government of Nepal thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) The Government of India maintains regular contact with the Government of Nepal about terrorist activities aimed against India. Whenever specific information on this is available, this is shared with the Government of Nepal with a request to take action. The Government of Nepal has assured us that it will not allow its territory to be used for any activities aimed against India.

Attacks on Indian citizens in Nepal

†2922. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Maoists are making attacks on Indians in Nepal and their security is under threat; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.